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aliphatic ketone in the presence of low valent titanium wherein said low valent titanium is generated by zinc.

Please add the following new claims 18-28:

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18. (New) A process for preparing 5,6-dihydro-11H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohept-11-enes comprising reacting a dibenzosuberone or an aza derivative thereof with an aliphatic ketone in the presence of low valent titanium wherein said low valent titanium is generated by zinc and wherein the dibenzosuberone is present in a molar ratio range of from about 1:2 to about 2:1 relative to the aliphatic ketone.

19. (New) A process as claimed in claim 18 wherein the dibenzosuberone or aza derivative thereof is present in a molar ratio range of from about 1:1.5 to about 1.5:1 relative to the aliphatic ketone.

20. (New) A process as claimed in claim 18 wherein the dibenzosuberone or aza derivative thereof is present in a molar ratio range of from about 1:1.1 to about 1.1:1 relative to the aliphatic ketone.

21. (New) A process for preparing 5,6-dihydro-11H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohept-11-enes comprising reacting a dibenzosuberone or aza derivative thereof with an aliphatic ketone in the presence of low valent titanium wherein the low valent titanium is generated by zinc and wherein the zinc is present in a molar ratio range of from about 4:1 to about 1:1 relative to the titanium.

22. (New) A process as claimed in claim 21 wherein the zinc is present in a molar ratio range of from about 3:1 to about 2:1 relative to the titanium.

Amendment

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23. (New) A process for preparing 5,6-dihydro-11H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohept-11-enes comprising reacting a dibenzosuberone or aza derivative thereof with an aliphatic ketone in the presence of low valent titanium wherein the low valent titanium is generated by zinc and wherein the titanium is present in a molar ratio range of from about 0.5:1 to about 6:1 relative to the dibenzosuberone or aza derivative thereof.

24. (New) A process for preparing 5,6-dihydro-11H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohept-11-enes comprising reacting a dibenzosuberone or aza derivative thereof with an aliphatic ketone in the presence of low valent titanium at a temperature of less than about 100°C wherein the low valent titanium is generated by zinc.

25. (New) A process as claimed in claim 24 wherein the temperature is from about 20°C to about 60°C.

26. (New) A process for preparing 5,6-dihydro-11H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohept-11-enes comprising reacting a dibenzosuberone or aza derivative thereof with an aliphatic ketone in the presence of low valent titanium for at least about 1 hour wherein the low valent titanium is generated by zinc.

27. (New) A process as claimed in claim 26 wherein the dibenzosuberone or aza derivative thereof and the aliphatic ketone are reacted for a time of from about 1 hour to about 4 hours.

28. (New) A process as claimed in claim 26 wherein the dibenzosuberone or aza derivative thereof and the aliphatic ketone are reacted for a time of from about 1 hour to about 2 hours.